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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4031
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 0754
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 0856
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5682
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0788
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 9203
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 9308
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 0586
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 2498
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 4161
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 9901
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3073
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1688
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 0970
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4620
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 9468
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 7132
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 9116
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 3739
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 8625
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 4315
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RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4102
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 6467
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SUBJECT: INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE OFFICERS HEAD TO
AFGHANISTAN

Classified By: PolCouns Ted Osius for Reasons 1.4 (B,D)

(C) "The Hindustan Times" reported March 3 that, in the interest of capacity building, the Government of India (GOI) was planning to send thirty Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers (Note: The cream of India's prestigious civil service. End note.) to Afghanistan shortly to engage in development work. Ministry for External Affairs (MEA) Under Secretary for Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, Smita Pant,

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confirmed March 7 that the GOI was planning to send some civil servants to Afghanistan, but indicated that the plans are still at an early stage. According to Embassy contacts, the IAS officers will travel to Afghanistan over the next few months. This is not a new decision, but part of the regular trilateral arrangement between India, Afghanistan and the United Nations Development Program. The number "thirty" does not reflect anything new, but is the result of collating a number of already-scheduled programs. Post is awaiting a response from the MEA as to where these IAS officers intend to work and when specifically they will arrive in Afghanistan. The news that India will send its best administrators shows the depth of the Indian commitment to Afghanistan.
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